



“Building Communities Together”

A Networking Tool of HUD's Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships

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April is Fair Housing Month!

What's New in HUD Policy?

Fair Housing Grant Opportunities for Nonprofits

HUD relies heavily on community and faith-based nonprofit partners for most programs. In no area is this collaboration as critical as fair housing.

HUD offers two programs through the FY 2000 SuperNOFA: the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) and the Mainstream Housing Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities program to support community and faith-based organizations interested in working on fair housing issues.

FHIP funds education and enforcement activities to promote increased compliance with the Fair Housing Act and with substantially equivalent State and local fair housing laws. Specifically, FHIP supports these activities through three statutorily authorized initiatives: Education and Outreach Initiative (EOI); Private Enforcement Initiative (PEI); and Fair Housing Organizations Initiative (FHOI). Public or private, for profit or not for profit, organizations or institutions, and State or local governments are all eligible for EOI. PEI and FHOI are open to organizations recently engaged in enforcement activity.

Fair housing is fundamental to HUD's efforts to provide affordable housing and economic opportunity for all Americans. Housing discrimination is a major obstacle confronting HUD's efforts to deconcentrate public housing residents. Housing choices must exist throughout the metropolitan area to provide Section 8 voucher recipients the opportunity to move closer to jobs and public transportation. Fair housing issues impact the implementation of HOPWA, homeless programs, housing for the disabled, and numerous other HUD programs.

Faith-based organizations are uniquely positioned to confront many complex factors that ultimately limit housing choices. Faith-based organizations have credibility in public dialogue, organizing experience, and a special ability to tap into people's commitment to social justice. Just as they were central to the civil rights movement of the sixties, HUD knows they are central to the fight for fair housing today. HUD recognizes that faith-based organizations are uniquely positioned to combat NIMBYism and housing discrimination, and encourages those groups to apply for HUD's fair housing program funds through the recently issued SuperNOFA.

The notice of funding availability (NOFA) for FHIP grants was recently released by the Department. The application deadline is May 16, 2000. To learn more and download the application, visit the HUD web site at <http://www.hud.gov/nofa00/grpfhhcp.html> or call HUD's Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Office at (202) 708-4252. HUD will also produce a satellite broadcast on FHIP on April 5, from 1:00 - 4:30 PM. For more information on the broadcast, call (202) 708-6073.

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Secretary Cuomo Attends Interfaith Call to End Gun Violence

The Interfaith Call to End Gun Violence, sponsored by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, took place on March 15 in Washington, DC.

The Interfaith Call to End Gun Violence centered around the release of a sign-on letter supporting HUD's efforts to end gun violence signed by approximately fifty groups (including most of the major Judeo-Christian denominations) and approximately fifty prominent religious leaders. The letter will be sent to members of Congress.

Andrew Cuomo, HUD Secretary; *Fr. Joe Hacala*, Center Director; *Rabbi David Saperstein*, Director of the Religious Action Center; *Rev. Jim Wallis*, Editor-in-chief, *Sojourners Magazine* and Call to Renewal Convenor; *Rev. Elenora Giddings Ivory*, Director, Washington Office Presbyterian Church USA; *Most Rev. Richard Hanifen*, Catholic Bishop of Colorado Springs, CO; and *Most Rev. Arthur Tafoya*, Catholic Bishop of Pueblo, CO joined together to speak out on the need to end gun violence in our communities.

The purpose of the gathering was to underscore that, in spite of our diverse religious backgrounds, we are all compelled as people of faith to make ending gun violence a personal priority. Each speaker described the basis in his/her own spiritual tradition for opposing gun violence and called upon all people of faith to take action to make this goal a reality.

What Can FBOs Do to Promote Fair Housing and Home Ownership: Interview with CNBC's Rev. Dr. Wallace S. Hartsfield, Sr.

Rev. Dr. Wallace S. Hartsfield, Sr., currently serves as Chairman of The Congress of National Black Churches, Inc., and as pastor of Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church.

Rev. Hartsfield also serves as second Vice President of the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc. In these capacities, Rev. Hartsfield has played a leadership role in promoting home ownership, fair housing and economic opportunity for African Americans.

CNBC recently received a \$494,000 technical assistance grant from HUD. The grant was awarded under HUD's Community Development Technical Assistance Program.

"CNBC was selected based on what they could bring to the table and the programs they have coordinated in the past," said HUD Assistant Secretary Cardell Cooper. "The organization provided an excellent test case and has also been very successful in coordinating programs for people of low to moderate income." CNBC's ongoing partnership with Bank of America was one of the major factors that helped the organization receive the grant.

Q: The Congress of National Black Churches, Inc. (CNBC) recently received a Technical Assistance Grant from HUD. What is the grant for and where will it be used?

A: CNBC will provide technical assistance to community-based organizations carrying out activities under the community development block grant (CDBG) program and to community housing development organizations (CHDOs). [To be eligible for an allotment of the 15% set-aside of HOME funds, a nonprofit must be certified as a

CHDO. For more information on CHDO certification, access www.hud.gov:80/cpd/home/sub-g.html] These activities will be conducted in five states: Tennessee, Missouri, South Carolina, Texas and Indiana. CNBC will focus on the following cities within those states: Knoxville, Columbia, Dallas, Houston, Indianapolis and Kansas City.

Q: April is Fair Housing Month. How is CNBC working for Fair Housing?

A: CNBC has a network of 26 affiliated housing counseling agencies. The delivery of homebuyer education and counseling services in each site includes a module specifically focusing on fair housing and fair lending.

In addition, CNBC will apply for the first time under the FY 2000 SuperNOFA for Fair Housing funds to focus on five sites.

Q: The Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships is working with CNBC to involve affiliated churches in making Section 8 vouchers more effective, by inviting churches to support voucher recipients in their search for housing and with basic moral and social support. Will you please talk about CNBC's plans in this area?

A: Nationally nearly 40% of households that receive a voucher never succeed in leasing a home before the 120 day time limit expires and they must return the voucher. CNBC entered into a partnership with the Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships to provide supportive services to two to three families in five pilot sites. The pilot sites are cities in which CNBC's affiliated housing

counseling agencies will coordinate supportive activities using counselors and volunteers to secure housing for Section 8 voucher recipient families selected for the program. The families will also receive assistance in budgeting, career planning and employment training. The five cities targeted are Atlanta, Flint, Miami, Baltimore and New Orleans.

Q: Anything else you would like to say to our readers?

A: CNBC is appreciative of the support and cooperation HUD has lent over the past several years. Today, CNBC is pleased to have a network of affiliated housing counseling agencies that are helping to close the gap in homeownership and at the same time are helping to revitalize our nation's urban and rural places.

Founded in 1978 and based in Washington, DC, CNBC is an ecumenical coalition of eight major historically African American denominations: African Methodist Episcopal; African Methodist Episcopal Zion; Christian Methodist Episcopal; Church of God in Christ; National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.; National Baptist Convention of America; National Missionary Baptist Convention of America and the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. Together, these denominations represent 65,000 member churches and a congregation membership of more than 20 million people. CNBC's mission is to foster Christian unity, charity and fellowship and to collaborate in ministries which promote justice, wholeness, fulfillment and affirm the moral and spiritual values of faith. To learn more about CNBC access their web site at www.cnbc.org.

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HUD also makes funds available to community and faith-based organizations interested in working on fair housing issues as they relate to the disabled, specifically, the Mainstream Housing Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities program. The purpose of this program is to provide vouchers under the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program to enable persons with disabilities (elderly and non-elderly) to rent affordable private housing. Approximately \$50.25 million in five-year budget authority for approximately 1,800 vouchers is available to public housing agencies and non-profit organizations. The application deadline is July 18, 2000. To learn more and download the application, visit the HUD web site at <http://www.hud.gov/nofa00/grpsection8.html> or call HUD's Section 8 Office at (202) 708-0970.

Technical Assistance Providers

As we reported last month, Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development (CPD), Cardell Cooper, and Fr. Joe Hacala, Director of the Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships, announced this year's recipients of technical assistance grants on February 24. If you are interested in accessing technical assistance resources, you might want to contact these grant recipients. A complete list of grants and contact information can be found on HUD's web site at <http://www.hud.gov:80/cpd/cpdta/ta99field.html>.

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Commitment to Justice Conference Series Continues

The next conference is slated for **April 28, 2000 in St. Louis, MO** with **Rev. Floyd Flake** as the keynote speaker. A draft agenda and list of workshops, along with materials from prior conferences have been posted at www.hud.gov/cdc/commjust.html. To obtain more information or to register, call 1-800-308-0395.

The Center held the fifth in its series of "Commitment to Justice" conferences in **Portland, OR on April 4-5**. The conference drew some 300 participants from across the Northwest/Alaska region. Speakers included Andrew Cuomo (by video), HUD Secretary; Charles Jordan, President, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon; Bob Santos, HUD Secretary's Representative, Northwest/Alaska; and Elinor Bacon, HUD Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Public Housing Investments.



Did You Know?

The population data supplied by the **Census 2000 provides the basis for HUD's formula grant programs**. The Census 2000 web site, www.census.gov, lists all Federal assistance that is distributed based upon information generated by the census. HUD programs determined by census data are listed below.

- ♦Funding for housing needs for elderly and persons with disabilities (Section 202 and 811)
- ♦Housing assistance for low-income families
- ♦Funding for local planning to address low-income housing needs, needs of the handicapped
- ♦Funding for minority enterprises, and small research and development projects
- ♦Community development block grants for housing and economic opportunities for low and moderate income persons
- ♦Grants to cities and counties to stimulate economic recovery

Faith Communities and Persons with Disabilities

The **Accessible Congregations Campaign (ACC) "2,000 in the Year 2000,"** sponsored by the **National Organization on Disability**, reports that all states now have at least one accessible congregation. Over 940 congregations have committed to make their facilities accessible for persons with physical disabilities.

The ACC seeks to gain the commitment of 2,000 congregations in the year 2000 to include people with all types of disabilities as full and active participants. The campaign seeks to enlist congregations of all faiths and is based on the scriptural understanding that all people, with and without disabilities, are created in the image of God. Over 940 congregations have committed to make their facilities accessible for persons with physical disabilities.

As a member of ACC, a congregation must acknowledge that it has physical and attitudinal barriers to the full participation of people with disabilities and make a commitment to remove those barriers. ACC understands congregations need not be perfect but feel that they do need to set achievable goals and make a commitment to action.

According to ACC, the state with the highest number of accessible congregations is **North Dakota** (169), while **Tennessee** has only one reported accessible congregation so far. The Campaign hopes to reach 2,000 congregations.

For more information please contact **Lorraine Thal**, NOD, 910 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20006. Tel: (202) 293-5960; TTY (202) 293-5968 or email: religion@nod.org.



Center Toolbox: Model Building Codes Accessibility Analysis from FHEO

In March 2000, HUD's Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity office issued a **Final Report of HUD's Review of Model Building Codes** in response to a directive from the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations. The Final Report and its policy statement provide technical assistance to building code organizations and officials regarding the accessibility provisions of four model building codes and the requirements of the Act, the Department's implementing regulations, and the Fair Housing Accessibility Guidelines.

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (the Fair Housing Act), 42 U.S.C. § 3601 et seq., **prohibits discrimination in housing and housing related transactions based on race, color, religion, national origin, and sex.** In 1988, Congress **extended** the protections of the Act **to families with children and persons with disabilities.**

Since 1992, HUD has worked jointly with several model building organizations, including the Council of American Building Officials (CABO) and the Board for Coordination of Model Building Codes (BCMC) on proposed model building code language that would reflect the design and construction requirements of the Fair Housing Act. In late December 1997, CABO submitted to HUD a matrix that compared four building codes to the Fair Housing Act's design and construction requirements.

To be 'accessible' to persons with disabilities, the Fair Housing Act requires all covered multifamily dwellings for first occupancy after March 13, 1991 to meet several requirements, including:

1) Public and common areas must be

readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.

2) All doors must be designed to allow passage into and within all premises in covered dwellings by being sufficiently wide to allow passage by persons using wheelchairs.

3) All premises within dwellings must contain an accessible route through and into the dwelling.

4) Light switches, electrical outlets, thermostats and other environmental controls must be placed in accessible locations.

5) Reinforcements must be placed in bathroom walls to allow later installation of grab bars.

6) Kitchens and bathrooms must be accessible.

In 1997, CABO, three model building code organizations, and several building industry organizations contacted the Department to discuss, among other items, the importance of incorporating the design and construction requirements of the Act into three model building codes and into the draft International Building Code.

Final Report Findings

HUD's Final Report says the model building codes reflect the majority of the requirements of the Act. In addition, the Final Report found that all four model building codes applied accessibility requirements to most, but not all, of the covered multifamily dwellings. The Final Report identifies areas where the model building codes need to be revised in order to ensure that they are consistent with the requirements of the

Act, and makes recommendations to assist the model building code organizations in incorporating language into the model building codes that is consistent with the design and construction requirements of the Act.

HUD continues to work with the model building code organizations, the building industry and disability advocates to further refine recommended model building code language and to develop additional code language that reflects changes needed.

Model Building Codes Reviewed

International Building Code (IBC)

Uniform Building Code (UBC)

Standard Building Code (SBC)

BOCA National Building Code (NBBC)

The complete Final Report, with all recommendations and the policy statement, is located at www.hud.gov/fhe/modelcodes. The Fair Housing Act, as amended in 1988, the regulations implementing the Act, and the Fair Housing Accessibility Guidelines can also be obtained through links provided at this web site. You may view the matrix, the chapters of the codes that the Department reviewed; and purchase copies of CABO/ANSI A117.1-1992 and ICC/ANSI A117.1-1998, at www.intlcode.org/fairhousing.

For further information contact: Ms. Cheryl Kent, Director, Program Compliance and Disability Rights Support Division, 451 Seventh Street, SW, Room 5240, Washington, DC 20410-0500, telephone (202) 708-2333 x7058 TTY 1-800-877-8339.